

**Lumberton CTP Steering Committee
Meeting #2
Thursday, April 3, 2014, 3:30 PM
Candy Sue's Restaurant
111 West 3rd Street, Lumberton, NC**

Members Present

Joe Bailey, Alan Britt, Mickey Gregory, Dencie Lambdin, Leon Maynor, Susan Walker, Burnis Wilkins

Staff Present

ArTriel Askew (City of Lumberton), John (Andy) Bailey (NCDOT Transportation Planning Branch), Janet Robertson (Lumber River RPO)

The meeting began with introductions of those present. Ms. Janet Robertson reviewed the minutes from the prior meeting. These minutes included an action item (approval of the CTP Planning Area Boundary and Highway Network Roads to study) that would take place at this meeting.

Mr. Bailey presented the proposed CTP Planning Area Maps and the Highway Network roads to be studied. The roads studied included all roads from the previous thoroughfare plan. The southwestern portion of the study area was suggested to be extended further out by the city manager due to some current and proposed future developments in this area. This area was shown in this map. A discussion ensued about NC 711 and its recommendations towards Pembroke. It was noted that the Robeson County CTP recommended adding bicycle lanes from the Pembroke CTP Planning Area Boundary to the Lumberton CTP Planning Area Boundary. Mr. Bailey noted that while this was the only improvement for NC 711 in the rural portion of the county between Pembroke and Lumberton, this would not prohibit any further recommendations to NC 711 inside the Lumberton CTP Planning Area Boundary. A discussion followed focusing on the need to make sure the Lumberton Regional Airport was shown on the map and that there would need to be easy access to the airport recommended in the plan. A discussion also ensued about particular roads (Elizabethtown Road and Carthage Road primarily) that would need to be recommended for improvement in the plan. At the end of the discussion, consensus was reached that the Lumberton CTP Planning Area Boundary and Highway Network Roads to be studied were a good representation of the area and were approved.

Mr. Bailey then introduced the discussion of the CTP Vision Statement. Mr. Bailey first introduced were two CTP Vision statements from other plans, the Western Rockingham CTP and the McDowell County CTP. The Western Rockingham CTP Vision Statement was a long, inclusive statement with very limited details for goals and objectives whereas the McDowell County CTP Vision Statement was a very succinct statement with a more detailed list of goals and objectives. After discussion, the CTP Steering Committee decided to follow the McDowell County CTP Vision Statement format.

Discussions ensued about possible goals and objectives for the CTP Vision Statement. These included:

- I-95, the current capacity issues, and limited distance of acceleration lanes to get onto the facility, and the congestion at the existing interchanges. This congestion at the interchanges is further increased due to many access points along routes (US 301 and NC 211) near the interchanges.
- The service roads that parallel I-95 are also of issue due to handling more traffic to varied land uses than these roads were originally intended to handle.
- Several routes into downtown Lumberton are narrow and unwelcoming (Elizabethtown Road and Carthage Road) from areas outside the city. These routes begin as wide routes from outside the city, but narrow closer to downtown.
- Better access to the airport from I-95 and downtown to promote economic growth.
- Transit was discussed to provide local access to lower income, minority, and retirement populations throughout the city. It was mentioned that Lumberton has received a retirement community certification.
- Bicycle and/or pedestrian facilities were mentioned to be improved in several locations, including in and around the Robeson Community College and land uses around it, pedestrian access to the high school and traffic issues around it, and pedestrian access across I-95.
- The existing greenway has been noted is a center piece to the town and there is a desire to expand it across I-95 to McMillian Beach, NC 711, and points to the west.
- There is also a desire to connect the city to the Northeast Park with multi-modal facilities. This large park is the site of many recreation activities and is has facilities in place that make it a prime location for regional tournaments.
- In more rural areas, there is a desire to have bicycle and/or multi-use paths along existing roadway facilities.

These statements will help in formulating the draft CTP Vision Statement. It will then be shared via email to all members for their feedback before the CTP Vision Statement is finalized.

Ms. Robertson introduced the discussion of the Goals and Objectives Survey, which will be used to gather public input. Ms. Robertson first introduced were two goals and objective surveys from other plans, the Richmond County CTP and the Scotland County CTP. Both surveys are very succinct in nature, composed of only a two-page questionnaire. The CTP Steering Committee approved the use of these survey templates to formulate the Lumberton CTP public survey. A final draft of this survey will be presented at the next CTP Steering Committee Meeting in May before it will be released.

A discussion ensued about the best way to engage the public in taking this survey. One option that is available is to include a flyer with the survey website along with the residences water bills. Once the public survey is finalized in May, the flyers can be distributed with the water bills in June. Other ideas of the distribution for participation of the CTP survey included on government websites, an article in the Sunday newspaper with a website, physical paper surveys at government buildings, and churches and groups throughout Lumberton. The hospital was referenced as an example of how best to distribute surveys.

There was a brief discussion about data that will be needed from the city. Currently, NCDOT is in possession of 2010 Census data and 2010 workforce (Info USA) data. Mr. Bailey requested help from the city on any new residences that had been built between 2011-13 and any new businesses (over 50 employees) that had come into the area between 2011-2013. Mr. Bailey will also be sending a list of employers with over 50 employees to the city for verification of numbers within the next few weeks. These preliminary data will be collected and reviewed at the next CTP Steering Committee meeting in May.

Mr. Bailey mentioned that a presentation of the CTP Process and the approval of the socio-economic base year and future year projections could be made at the same time to the Lumberton City Council in June. City Council would like the presentation to occur at the CPC meeting the Wednesday (June 4) before the second Monday (June 9), which is the city council's regularly scheduled meeting. That said, the CTP Steering Committee meeting to approve the socio-economic data and recommend it to city council would need to take place **before** Wednesday, June 4, 2014.

In closing, the next CTP Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 1, 2014 at 3:30 pm at city hall.